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China's Ballistic Missile Sales

E0244

Question:

What actions have been taken or are contemplated to secure Chinese cooperation to end the proliferation of ballistic missiles in the Middle East and other Third World countries?

Answer:

- o China's sale of CSS-2 IRBM's to Saudi Arabia highlighted the necessity to work to achieve stronger international curbs on the transfer of ballistic missile systems and component technology.
- o As part of our global effort, we have stressed to the Chinese our concern over destabilizing nature of transfers of this type of weapons system, especially to volatile regions such as the the Middle East and South Asia.
- o On a number of occasions, including during Secretary Shultz' and Secretary Carlucci's trips to China last year, the United States expressed its concern to senior Chinese leaders over the dangers posed by missile proliferation.
- o Chinese leaders have responded that they will take a prudent and responsible attitude regarding weapons sales, including the sale of missiles.
- o We believe that the Chinese understand the concerns we have expressed, and our constructive dialogue with them thus far provides a basis for optimism.
- o We will continue to urge China and other nations to refrain from exporting missiles with a range greater than 300 kilometers and a payload over 500 kilograms.

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